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Histoire des Doctrines Economiques. Par E. ESPINAS, Professeur à la Faculté des lettres de Bordeaux. Paris, n.d. (1892). — 12mo, 359 pp.

Professor Espinas' volume has a singular recommendation. He tells us in the preface that students not satisfied with the previous French histories of political economy can use his book with confidence, because "nous avons lu les ouvrages dont nous parlons"; but he immediately qualifies this statement with the proviso: "tous ceux du moins de quelque importance." This is a rather amusing commentary on his French predecessors. Professor Espinas evidently found the perusal of the "important works" so difficult that he confined himself almost exclusively to French writers. The volume contains no indication that there was any political economy in Germany before Thünen. While it is doubtless true that the Germans unduly magnify some of their countrymen's work, it really seems as if a history of political economy should mention at least a few of the writers contained in Roscher's two volume account of economics in Germany. And while a few of the English writers who influenced Adam Smith and the Physiocrats are mentioned, a number of important names are omitted. For the nineteenth century, again, the only English writers referred to are Malthus, Ricardo and Mill.

It will be seen, therefore, how inadequate and narrow the book is. It is indeed an improvement on Blanqui's history, because Blanqui devoted rather more attention to economic history than to the history of economics and was withal rather inexact. For the earlier history of political economy up to Adam Smith, Professor Espinas' work is, indeed, in many respects to be commended as a clear and succinct exposition of the chief currents of thought. But here again all his secondary authorities are French, and he does not once refer to the many elaborate monographs in German, Italian and English on various phases of economic doctrine in classic and mediæval literature. Probably because there does not happen to be any French work on the economic ideas of the Romans we find that the author utterly ignores the economics of the *Corpus Juris*. Finally there is the greatest possible lack of proportion shown in the arrangement. Cantillon for instance, whom it has become the fashion rather to overestimate, has eighteen pages devoted to him, while Steuart is not mentioned at all and Malthus and Ricardo are disposed of in about four pages each. For the French class room Professor Espinas' work will perhaps be timely and serviceable, but for English readers there will be very little not already contained in the works of Ingram and others.

E. R. A. S.